REMARKS:

Claims 1-15 and 18-29 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled.

The foregoing amendments are respectfully submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention.

It is believed that no additional fees are due because of this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees caused by this filing and grant of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account Number 04-1425. A duplicate copy of this Amendment is enclosed for that purpose.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Date: Octdon 10, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

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